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JRW

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08049.0765-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Robert Krause et al.) Group Art Unit: 3621
Serial No.: 09/839,241) Examiner: John W. Hayes
Filed: April 23, 2001) Confirmation No.: 4011
For: Systems and Methods for Providing)
Change of Address Services Over)
a Network)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In a restriction requirement dated September 1, 2004, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between four groups of claims, namely:

Group I including claims 1-3, 24-48, 50-54, 84-108, 110-114, 123-125, 146-170 and 172-176, allegedly drawn to a method, system and computer program product for providing an electronic change of address service including verification information without validating the identity of the customer, classified in class 705, subclass 1;

Group II including claims 4-20, 55-80, 115-122, 126-142 and 177-184, allegedly drawn to a method, system and computer program product for providing an electronic change of address service including a specific step of validating an identity of the customer, classified in class 705, subclass 64;

Group III including claims 21-23, 81-83 and 143-145, allegedly drawn to a method, system and computer program product for providing an electronic change of address service including credit card information for verification, classified in class 705, subclass 35; and

Group IV including claims 49, 109 and 171, drawn to a method, system and computer program product for providing an electronic change of address

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service including providing an e-mail forwarding service, classified in class 709, subclass 206.

In the Office Action, the Examiner made several characterizations of the claims.

Without accepting any of these characterizations, Applicants elect to begin prosecution with Group II, including claims 4-20, 55-80, 115-122, 126-142 and 177-184.

Furthermore, Applicants file herewith a Petition for Extension of Five Months' Time for responding to the Restriction Requirement. Therefore, the extended deadline for filing this Response is March 1, 2005.

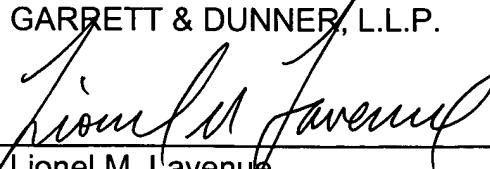
Applicants also note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in this application on July 15, 2004. To date, Applicants have not received the initialed form 1449 indicating that the Examiner has considered the references cited in the Statement. Accordingly, Applicants again request that the Examiner consider the references listed in the July 15, 2004, Statement and return the initialed form 1449 for Applicants' records.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 25, 2005

By: 
Lionel M. Lavenue
Reg. No. 46,859